



Athens, 18 August 2018
Ref. Nr. 4188

His Excellency
The Federal Minister of
the Interior, Building and
Community of the Federal
Republic of Germany
Mr Horst Seehofer
Alt-Moabit 140, Berlin

Dear Colleague,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 17 August 2018 referring to the Political Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain and the Hellenic Republic of 29 June 2018. The three Sides in the said Political Agreement underline their support for concluding the revision of the Common European Asylum System in 2018 with the aim of striking the right balance between a fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity. Furthermore, the Parties have committed to establishing interim measures, until entry into force of the new Common European Asylum System, between those Member States willing to move ahead collectively on a European level, as the best way to proceed, in accordance with applicable international and European law.

Furthermore, in light of the Political Agreement, the Hellenic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany will continue to work towards European solutions and the avoidance of unilateral measures with respect to migration and asylum.

In this framework, I hereby confirm the acceptance of the operational details of the actions foreseen in the Political Agreement as described in your letter as well as the modalities set out in the Arrangement set forth in Annexes 1 and 2 (attached), as a meaningful way of operationalizing the Political Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

Dimitris Vitsas
Minister For Migration Policy



Bundesministerium
des Innern, für Bau
und Heimat

His Excellency
The Minister for Migration and Refugees
of the Hellenic Republic
Mr Dimitris Vitsas
Evangelistrias 2
105 63 ATHENS
GREECE

Horst Seehofer

Bundesminister

HAUSANSCHRIFT
Alt-Moabit 140
10557 Berlin

POSTANSCHRIFT
11014 Berlin

TEL +49(0)30 18 681-11000
FAX +49(0)30 18 681-11014

Minister@bmi.bund.de
www.bmi.bund.de

Berlin, 17. August 2018

Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to refer to the Political Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain and the Hellenic Republic of 29 June 2018. The three Sides in said Political Agreement underline their support for concluding the revision of the Common European Asylum System in 2018 with the aim of striking the right balance between a fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity. Furthermore, the Parties have committed to establishing interim measures, until entry into force of the new Common European Asylum System, between those Member States willing to move ahead collectively on a European level, as the best way to proceed, in accordance with applicable international and European law.

Furthermore, and in light of the Political Agreement, the Hellenic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany will continue to work towards European solutions and the avoidance of unilateral measures with respect to migration and asylum. They also stress that the three dimensions of a comprehensive migration policy, namely external, protection/management of external borders and internal, should be pursued in parallel.

The Hellenic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany acknowledge that, as regards the reform of the Dublin IV Regulation proposal, the compromise text of the Bulgarian Presidency is a solid basis to start the trilogues with the European Parliament and the European Commission as soon as possible, with the aim of concluding the ne-

gociations by the end of 2018. Greece, as a Member State at the external border, and Germany, as the main Member State of destination, reiterate their commitment to a fair distribution of applicants of international protection. They further reiterate that Search and Rescue Operations have to be conducted in accordance with international law and in full respect of the competences of the respective maritime rescue coordination centres.

In the Political Agreement, the Parties express their support for the adoption of additional immediate operational EU initiatives, based on solidarity, including through burden sharing, in response to possible crises. In this vein, competent Ministers and eventually Heads of Government will convene to examine and agree upon additional measures based on solidarity and fair burden sharing. On this basis, the countries will support each other in the European Council. The term "crisis" should be defined for the purposes of the aforementioned political agreement as a situation where a member state has surpassed a certain percentage, e.g. 140%, of its fair share in asylum applicants. The fair share should be calculated on the basis of the following formula: total asylum requests in the EU, during the previous year, applied by the reference key (total population and GDP) of the member state.

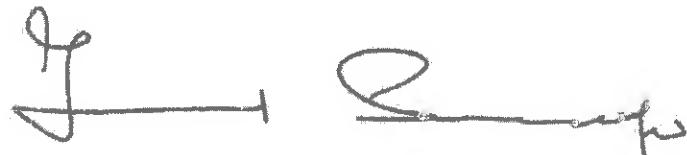
In the Political Agreement, the Parties further reiterated their commitments to supporting Member States at the external border financially or through the provision of police and asylum officers. In this light, the Hellenic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany agree that, where the hotspot approach is implemented, supportive and development measures need to be taken in order to assist local communities. Specific measures to be taken in respect of Greece include but are not limited to deployment of EASO and Frontex personnel. Germany is committed to deploy 55 experts through EASO to assist the asylum procedure and will provide 15 interpreters in languages to be specified by the Greek Asylum Service in case such interpreters cannot be provided by EASO. Furthermore, Germany acknowledges the Greek efforts for the adoption of the updated Greek Financial Plan of 2018 and the Financial Plan of 2019 and furthermore supports positive measures, such as development programmes, in the five Greek islands.

Finally, I would like to propose to you the Arrangement set forth in Annexes 1 and 2 as a meaningful way of operationalizing the Political Agreement vis-a-vis the refusal of entry at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria and family reunifications. This Arrangement is without prejudice to the continuation of the efforts towards the reform of the Common European Asylum System.

Seite 3 von 3

If this letter and the Annexes thereto are acceptable to your Government, this letter and your confirmation will together constitute a political arrangement to be implemented as from the date of receipt of your reply.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georges C. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke on the left and a more stylized "Bush" on the right.

ANNEX 1

Administrative Arrangement

between

the Ministry of Migration Policy of the Hellenic Republic

and

**the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of the Federal
Republic of Germany**

**on cooperation when refusing entry to persons seeking protection in the context
of temporary checks at the internal German-Austrian border**

The Ministry of Migration Policy of the Hellenic Republic (referred to in the following as "Greek Side") and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of the Federal Republic of Germany (referred to in the following as "German Side")

(collectively referred to in the following as "the Sides")

have, based on and within the framework of their applicable national and international law, and in line with Union law, in particular the Schengen Borders Code,

come to the following understanding:

Part I: Cooperation when refusing entry to persons seeking protection in the context of temporary checks at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria

I. Content and scope

- i. This Administrative Arrangement covers the refusal of entry of persons in the framework of applicable national law if the following conditions are

met.

- a) The person has been identified during a check at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria and is to be refused entry.
- b) The person is not an unaccompanied minor at the time of identification.
- c) The person has expressed a desire for international protection.
- d) An entry in the Eurodac system (Category I Eurodac hit) indicates that the person has already requested protection in Greece, and such entry in the Eurodac system is dated from 1 July 2017 onwards.

- ii. In the cases of subsection (i), the Greek Side will readmit the person after being notified that the German Side has refused entry.

2. Notification

- i. The responsible authority for the German Side will provide notification of refusal of entry in English via fax or e-mail to the Greek's Side responsible authority using the form provided in Annex 2. This notification will include the following information:
 - a) Eurodac ID number
 - b) photo
 - c) travel data
 - d) date and place of apprehension.
- ii. Notification will be sent as soon as it has been determined that the conditions of No. 1 (i) have been met and transfer has been arranged in accordance with No. 3 (i). A mechanism for the automatic confirmation of the receipt of the notification will be provided by the Greek side.

3. Implementing refusal of entry

- i. The German Side refusing entry may return the person by air only, at the Athens International Airport. The return should be initiated no more than 48 hours after the person has been apprehended at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria, unless the Greek Side objects to the return within six hours from the automatic confirmation of receipt of the notification, demonstrating why the conditions of Part I, No. 1 have not been met.
 - ii. The Greek Side will allow the person to enter, unless it has objected to the return within six hours from the automatic confirmation of receipt of the notification, demonstrating why the conditions of Part I, No. 1 have not been met.
4. Refusal of entry in error

If the Greek Side demonstrates within seven days of readmitting the person that the conditions of Part I, No. 1 (i) have not been met, the German Side will readmit the person without delay.

5. Responsible authorities

i. The Side's authorities entrusted with implementing Part I of this Administrative Arrangement are:

a) for the Greek Side:

National Co-ordination Center for Border Control, Migration and Asylum (ΕΣΚΕΣΜΑ)

P. Kanellopoulou 4

10177 Athens

Tel: +30 [REDACTED]

Fax: +30 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

a) for the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of the federal Republic of Germany:

Federal Police Regional Office (Bundespolizeidirektion München)
Infanteriestraße 6
80797 München
Postfach 40 07 12
80707 München
Tel.: 089/ 121 49 - 0
Fax: 089/ 121 49 1199

Email: [REDACTED]

ii. The Sides will inform each other immediately in writing of any changes to the responsible authorities or their address/contact information.

6. Costs of transfer following refusal to entry

i. The German Side will pay all costs associated with the refusal of entry until the person refused entry arrives in the territory of the Hellenic Republic.

ii. In case of Part I, No. 4 the German Side will pay all travel costs associated with a readmission of the person.

Part II: Family Reunifications

7. Accepted and Pending 'take charge' requests

The German Side will swiftly conclude family reunifications in the framework of the Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast) (Dublin III Regulation), with respect to 'take charge' requests submitted by the Greek Dublin Unit that have been already accepted by the German Dublin Unit before 1 August 2018. The German Side will conclude the examination of all 'take charge' requests that have been submitted before 1 August 2018 and have not been examined yet within two months of the beginning of the cooperation between the both Sides based on this Administrative Arrangement. The number of persons to be transferred from Greece to Germany is capped at 600 persons per month. Transfers will be carried out both by charter and commercial flights. These family reunifications will be concluded by the end of 2018.

8. Future 'take charge' requests

Any requests after 31 July 2018 will be dealt with according to the procedures as laid down in the Dublin III Regulation, as well as the respective Implementing Regulations (including the given time limits for submitting or answering a request as well as for transfers).

9. Currently pending requests for re-examination

The German Side will examine and reply to all requests for re-examination that have been submitted before 1 August 2018 ('currently pending requests for re-examination') without undue delay. To accelerate this examination, the Greek Side will provide the German Side with a sortable list containing i) the German and Greek reference numbers of the currently pending requests for re-examination and ii) the dates when these requests have been submitted by 30 September 2018. If a request for re-examination is accepted by the German

Side, the transfer of the person concerned will be carried out within six months of acceptance of the request.

10. Documentation of currently pending requests for re-examination

The following documents, if available, will be considered evidence, when submitted in relation to a currently pending request for re-examination: i) identification documents (passport or ID); ii) birth/marital status certificate, where appropriate; iii) family booklets, where appropriate. iv) transcript of interview.

11. Language of documentation accompanying currently pending requests for re-examination

Documents accompanying currently pending requests for re-examination will be submitted in their original language. A translation in English will be submitted, if available. Submission of documentation in its original language may not alone be considered a reason for rejecting a request for re-examination.

12. Costs of family reunification transfers

Greece will cover all costs related to family reunification transfers to Germany according to Article 30 (1) of the Dublin III Regulation.

Part III: Final Provisions

13. Liaison officers

Either Side may request the deployment of liaison officers to the competent authorities of the other Side. The Side receiving the request will not refuse the deployment of liaison officers arbitrarily.

14. Review of implementation and dispute settlement

- i. The two Sides will establish a committee, composed of 3 members appointed by each Side, which will review the implementation of this Administrative

Arrangement on a three-month basis.

- ii. The two Sides will settle disputes arising from the interpretation or application of this Administrative Arrangement solely through negotiation.

15. Beginning and ending of the cooperation and changes

- i. The cooperation between the Sides based on this Administrative Arrangement will start the day of the reply to the letter to which it is annexed.
- ii. This cooperation can be unilaterally discontinued. In order to avoid misunderstandings and inconveniences, the discontinuing Side should inform the other Side in writing at least three weeks beforehand. This Administrative Arrangement will also discontinue upon entry into force of the revised Common European Asylum System.

ANNEX 2

Letterhead

PHOTO

Notification of refusal of entry

On _____ [date] _____, the person whose file is stored under the Eurodac ID number _____ and whose photo is attached was apprehended in a check at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria at [location] in the attempt to enter [Side refusing entry]. This person does not meet the conditions for entry and has expressed a desire for international protection.

A search of the Eurodac system shows that this person applied for asylum with [authority] in [readmitting Side] on _____ [date] _____.

In accordance with No. 2 of the Administrative Arrangement between the Ministry of Migration Policy of the Hellenic Republic and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of the Federal Republic of Germany dated [date], this document serves as notification that this person has been refused entry and is being returned to [readmitting Side].

Flight:

By air

Flight number:

Scheduled departure on [date] at [time] from [departure airport]

Scheduled arrival on [date] at [time] at Athens International Airport

(Title, signature, last name and first name)

(Office)